



West Virginia  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service

# West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at [nass-wv@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wv@nass.usda.gov).

February 28, 2003

## 2002 HONEY PRODUCTION UP

**WEST VIRGINIA --** Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 459,000 pounds, up 4,000 pounds from 2001. There were 9,000 producing colonies in 2002, up 2,000 colonies from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 51 pounds, down 14 pounds from 65 in 2001. Honey stocks on December 15, 2002, were reported at 151,000 pounds, down 259,000 pounds from the amount was reported in 2001.

Prices for the 2002 crop averaged 137 cents per pound, compared to 142 cents per pound in 2001. Value of production totaled 629,000 dollars, down 17,000 dollars from 2001.

**UNITED STATES --** Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2002 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2001 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2002, which caused some revisions to the 2001 crop prices.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** All NASS reports are now available free of charge on the worldwide web. For access, connect to the Internet and select: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service  
c/o State Department of Agriculture  
Charleston, WV 25305